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THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OCT 17 1962

ADVANCED REPORT
THE HIRED FARM WORKING FORCE OF 1960 CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

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Farm Population Branch
Economic and Statistical Analysis Division
Economic Research Service

Over 3.6 million persons worked on farms for wages at some time during 1960. This preliminary estimate of the 1960 hired farm working force is based on data collected for the Economic Research Service by the Bureau of the Census as a part of the February, 1961, Current Population Survey (CPS). The survey obtained information on employment, earnings and characteristics of farm wage workers, including migratory workers. Other items on which data were collected included educational attainment of farm workers, years of farm work for the same employer, and information on Spanish-American workers in the hired farm working force. These data will be analyzed in "The Hired Farm Working Force of 1960" now in preparation.

Total workers, average days worked and cash wages earned at farm wage work for all farm wage workers, by migratory status and duration of farm wage work, 1960

Migratory status and days of farm wage work	: Number of workers	: Average days worked for farm wages	: Average daily earnings from farm wage work 1/	: Average annual earnings from farm wage work
	: Thousand	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Total workers	: 3,693	86	6.25	537
Less than 25 days	: 1,531	11	5.10	55
25 days or more	: 2,162	139	6.30	879
Migratory	: 409	98	6.60	650
Less than 25 days	: 92	13	5.25	66
25 days or more	: 317	123	6.65	819
Nonmigratory	: 3,284	84	6.20	523
Less than 25 days	: 1,439	11	5.10	54
25 days or more	: 1,845	142	6.25	889

1/ Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

Figures for workers are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals.

These data are preliminary and are subject to correction when final tabulations are completed.

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The 1960 estimate of 3,693,000 hired farm workers represents a slight increase over the 1959 figure of 3,577,000. Most of the increase was accounted for by casual farm workers doing less than 25 days of farm wage work annually. Average daily earnings for all workers in 1960 were \$6.25, up from \$5.95 a year earlier. Average daily earnings of migratory workers, \$6.60, were up 10 percent over 1959. Excluding casual workers, farm wage workers earned \$879 from farm work in 1960, about \$50 more than in 1959. Migratory workers reported annual earnings of \$819, over \$100 more than they averaged for farm wage work in 1959. Higher daily earnings and more days of farm wage work both contributed to the increase in annual earnings of migratory workers.

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Among farm wage workers twenty years of age or over the median years of school completed was 6.9 years for migratory workers and 8.1 years for non-migrants.

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COMPARABILITY OF DATA

The data cited above are from information gathered for the Economic Research Service by the Bureau of the Census in the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted in February, 1961. Similar surveys have been conducted since 1945. Although changes have been made in the sample design, the data are sufficiently comparable to supply a continuous series.

As in all sample surveys, the estimates are subject to sampling variability. Small figures, and minor differences between estimates or in year to year changes, must be interpreted in this light. The results are also subject to errors of response and reporting.

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